

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 26, 2004

PRESENT: James Gage, Walter Moody, Glenn Eberly, Jesse Amsel, and Shawn Costello

ABSENT: David Hurley

STAFF

PRESENT: Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Costello called the Ellington Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Costello referenced a memo sent to the Commission from the Town Planner dated September 29, 2004 regarding FOIA requirements. He stated that if any of the commissioners had anything that they would like to add to the agenda, they should do so now. Commissioner Gage stated that he would like to discuss fee in-lieu of open space and give an update about the Porter Road land acquisitions.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (MOODY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: 1) DISCUSSION OF FEE IN-LIEU OF OPEN SPACE AND 2) DISCUSSION OF PROGRESS OF PORTER ROAD ACQUISITIONS.

1. Discussion of Fee In-Lieu of Open Space

Commissioner Gage explained that there is a 20-lot subdivision that is being proposed on Crane Road. He noted that he would like to see the appraised (pre-development) value that is submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner Gage also explained that Mr. Gessay has land on the corner of Porter Road and Kibbe Road that he subdivides lot by lot. He expressed his concern with the fee in-lieu of open space for that particular piece of land. R. Goodreau explained how fee in-lieu of open space is calculated. She also noted that the PZC now requires an appraisal for every subdivision. Chairman Costello disagreed with the way that fee in-lieu of open space is being done. The commissioners agreed that it would be good to continue to track subdivisions that propose a fee in-lieu of open space.

2. Discussion of Progress of Porter Road Acquisitions

Commissioner Gage presented a map showing existing state and town owned lands and pointed out the two Wieliczka properties that the town is in the process of purchasing. He noted that there are negotiations on several other properties. Commissioner Gage explained that if one other property owner agrees to sell their land to the town, the grant money will have been spent. He noted that since the grant is finished, the commission should be looking at what they would like to apply for the next round of grants. He suggested asking for money to complete the connection, but also noted that farmland preservation may be an initiative as well.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Commission Workshop on Open Space Plan

R. Goodreau stated that she and the Town Planner received the comments from Commissioner Gage. She noted that Mr. Davis responded that he does not have a problem changing the format of the Draft Open Space Plan.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Capital Improvement Budget Requests

R. Goodreau noted that at the Board of Selectman's October 6, 2004 Special Meeting, the Board charged each commission to move forward with implementing the recommendations from the Build Out Report. The commissioners had a discussion of what they would like to include in the Capital Improvement Budget and decided that they would like to request a bond in order to purchase open space lands.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (EBERLY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REQUEST A \$1.75 MILLION BOND FOR PURPOSES OF ACQUIRING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARGE BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUILD OUT REPORT.

2. Set 2005 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Costello asked if anyone took issue with the proposed meeting schedule; no members opposed the proposed schedule.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (MOODY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2005 AS PROPOSED.

3. Approval of September 28, 2004 Meeting Minutes

MOVED (MOODY), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2004 MEETING MINUTES.

4. Correspondence:
 - a. Memo to Matt Davis from Dennis Milanovich, dated 9/22/04
 - b. Memo to James Gage from Dennis Milanovich, dated 9/22/04
 - c. Memo to Conservation Commission from Matt Davis, dated 9/29/04
 - d. Memo to Dennis Milanovich from Shawn Costello, dated 9/29/04

The commissioners asked if there was any response regarding this memo. Chairman Costello and R. Goodreau stated that they did not receive any response.

- e. Memo to EDC & Dennis Milanovich from Matt Davis, dated 10/4/04
- f. Memo to Ken LaForge & DRB from Rick Cleary & EDC, dated 10/19/04
- g. CACIWC 27th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference: 11/13/04

R. Goodreau noted that there is money in the budget in any members would like to attend. Several members expressed interest and were told to forward their registration forms to Mrs. Goodreau.

- h. Willimantic River Review, Fall 2004

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS USE OF THE BATZ PROPERTY.

5. Discussion of the Boy Scouts Use of the Batz Property.

Commissioner Amsel explained that a boy scout troop approached him to ask if it would be okay to camp at the Batz property the weekend of November 12, 2004.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE THE BOY SCOUTS USE OF THE BATZ PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF CAMPING FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2004 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2004 WITH THE CONDITION THAT THEY RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.

In addition to the items on or added to the agenda, the Commissioner Moody also discussed the Connecticut MetroPatterns presentation and Chairman Costello discussed the need to include funding in the upcoming budget for informational and educational initiatives for public outreach.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (EBERLY), SECONDED (MOODY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau
Recording Secretary